April 1979

the OPTIMIST

Newsletter of the Sierra Club MINERAL KING TASK FORCE

As you are all aware, last fall Congress passed and President Carter signed the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which, among other things, transferred Mineral King from the jurisdiction of Sequoia National Forest to that of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Now, responding to the mandate of the Act, the Park Service is seeking the assistance of the public in formulating a plan for the management of Mineral King. This plan will be submitted to Congress by November 10, 1980. As a first step, Mr. David Thompson, Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks has scheduled a series of public workshops for the purpose of hearing and discussing the ideas and suggestions of the public regarding the Comprehensive Management Plan for Mineral King.

We have all worked hard to prevent Mineral King from being sacrificed to the developers. We all know what we don't want at Mineral King. Now is our opportunity to make our views known on exactly what we do want. What activities would be appropriate at Mineral King? Should it remain semi-primitive, as it is? Should there be some rental cabins? Although permanent down-hill ski facilities are precluded by the Act, should there be other forms of winter recreation? Should the camp grounds be expanded? We probably all have our ideas. Now is our chance to make them known. After the many discouraging hearings and discussions we've gone through in the past, after the many letters we've written and the disheartening answers we've received, these workshops should be a pleasure. Let's show the Park Service we are still concerned about Mineral King. The workshops will be held at 7:30 PM in the following locations:

Los Angeles on April 30 in the Muses Room, Space Building, California Museum of Science and Industry, 700 State Drive, Exposition Park.

Bakersfield on May 1 in the Math/Science Two Room, Math Science Building, Corner of Mt. Vernon and University, Bakersfield College Campus, 1801 Panorama Dr., Bakersfield.

Visalia on May 7 in the Sequoia Room A of the Visalia Convention Center, 303 East Acequia, Visalia.

Three Rivers on May 8 in the Three Rivers Community Building, Highway 198.

Fresno on May 10 in the All Purpose Room of McClane High School at 2727 North Cedar Avenue, Fresno.

To get on the agenda, contact Mr. David Thompson, Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Ash Mountain, Three Rivers, Ca. 93271. Telephone: (209) 565-3341.

If you cannot attend any of the workshops, you can send your written comment to the above address.

SAWTOOTH SALLY SKIS AGAIN! Hello again, all you beautiful people! Wasn't that sweet of all those nice Congressmen and Jimmy Carter to save our lovely valley? I just had to give Johnnie Krebs a nice big kiss last time I saw him. And that naughty Charlie Pachayan, the new Congressman from Tulare County! He's introduced a bill to have downhill ski facilities at Mineral King. My land! You'd think he'd know better. Oh well. I'm sure the whole thing won't amount to a hill of beans. But I'm going to have to give Charlie a piece of my mind next time I see him. My dears, our favorite valley was a winter wonderland last month when I skied in. Thank goodness that nice Mike Botkin left his ski tracks for me to follow or I'd have had trouble getting up that last hill. I can hardly wait to see you all next summer. I think I'll pitch my tent at the Third Mosquito. See ya then. Love, Sal

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We still have Mineral King T-shirts and patches.
Adult sizes: Extra Large, Large, Medium and Small for $5.50 including tax and postage.
Children's sizes: 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 for $4.00 including tax and postage.
Little Guy's sizes: 3, 4, 6 and 8 ("MINERAL KING" in big red letters) also $4.00.
Something New: We've ordered sweat shirts. They are beige with the same picture as the T-shirts. Sizes extra large, large, medium and small for $10.50 including tax and postage.

Send orders to: Jean Koch, 2125 Ames St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90027. Make checks payable to Mineral King Task Force.

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